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THE EVALUATION OF BIRTH WEIGHT OF CALVES IN A SELECTED BREEDING HERD OF THE SLOVAK SPOTTED CATTLE

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Abstract: Growth traits of calves such as birth weight (BW) is of primary economical importance for the cow calf producer and for the farmers in general as shown others authors. The aim of the study was to evaluate the calf birth weight (BW) of the Slovak Spotted calves in Eastern Slovakia according to years of birth, period of birth, the sex and breed type.

• Introduction

Growth traits of calves such as birth weight (BW) is of primary economical importance for the cow calf producer and for the farmers in general as shown others authors.

• Material and method

In this study was used the records from 2020 to 2022 and 763 calves from Slovak Spotted cattle for the birth weight (BW).

• Results and discussions

The average value of BW of calves was 39.4 ± 6.7 kg, ranging from 17 to 58 kg. In the evaluated set, the most recurrent mean weight was 40 kg.

According to the years of evaluation, we found the average birth weight for calves was 38.7 ± 6.1 kg in 2020, 39.3 ± 6.7 kg in 2021 and 40.1 ± 6.9 kg in 2022, respectively.

The average BW of calves by sex was 40.8 ± 6.8 kg for bulls and 37.6 ± 6.7 kg for heifers, with a similar trend for individual years, with slightly increasing average weights for both sexes.

The linear model to represent $R^2 = 0.2927\%$ in case of BW of calves for all fixed effects.

• Conclusions

In conclusion, our results show the most significant effect of sire factor on calf birth weight which is confirmed by statistical significance

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